

**WABASH RIVER ENHANCEMENT CORPORATION**

200 North 2nd Street Lafayette, IN 47901
765.420.8505

The Honorable Senator Richard G. Lugar
1180 Market Tower
10 West Market Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

March 7, 2008

Dear Senator Lugar,

I am writing on behalf of the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation (WREC), Lafayette-West Lafayette (LWL), IN to formally request Authorization and Appropriation of federal funding to enhance the Central Wabash River Corridor (WRC) in Indiana. Phase one of this project will encompass Tippecanoe County with Lafayette-West Lafayette as its focal point. Later phases will focus on the WRC in Warren, Fountain, and Carroll counties.

The purpose of our initial Authorization and Appropriation Request is to complete a Reconnaissance Study of the WRC in Tippecanoe County. This request will build on WRC preliminary planning projects funded in part through the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Planning Assistance to States (PAS) program. The PAS preliminary planning work includes a completed Phase One Wabash River (WR) Hydraulic Study (LWL Urban section of the WRC), an ongoing Phase Two WR Hydraulic Study (north section of WRC in Tippecanoe County - with a projected completion date of September, 2008), and an upcoming preliminary corridor master plan for the rural county section of the WRC in Tippecanoe County (PAS funded in FY 2008 - projected to start in July of 2008). WREC is completing a preliminary Corridor Master Plan for the LWL urban section in 2008 funded 100% locally. The proposed Reconnaissance Study will assess the WRC including the local and PAS preliminary planning work to incorporate these individual planning efforts into one overall Corridor Master Plan and examine the level of federal interest in participating in a project to implement flood reduction management, initiate ecosystem restoration, and enhance recreation.

Enhancement of the Central Wabash River Corridor is an essential component of the federal and state economic development strategy to grow the Bio-Life Science and High Technology (B-LS & HT) sector through improving Quality of Life (QOL) and creation of a unique and vibrant Place of Choice (POC) in Tippecanoe County to attract and retain the best and the brightest leadership and workforce in the B-LS & HT sector to conduct their research and industry in Tippecanoe County. Research shows that in the start up niche of this sector especially, QOL and POC are top criteria considered by leadership when determining where B-LS & HT research and industry will locate. Consequently, this project is vital when considering its impact on the potential for success at Purdue University and the Purdue Research Park with its focus on start up B-LS & HT research and industry. Improving QOL and POC will enable the Federal and State Governments to further capitalize on their current and future investment in Purdue University B-LS & HT research and industry by positioning Purdue University and LWL to successfully attract and retain the best and the brightest leadership and workforce necessary to achieve global preeminence in B-LS & HT.

Enhancement of the WRC will consist of improving and maintaining the ecological health of the corridor through addressing flood risk management, ecosystem restoration (including improving water quality), and developing recreation facilities through this project and fostering residential and related economic opportunities in the private sector. Enhancement will also address issues with local and state infrastructure by improving water quality reducing the strain on local water provision and treatment facilities. Local transportation systems will be positively impacted through development of non-motorized transportation systems that lessen the strain on transportation infrastructure and safety. It will also address public health issues through fostering a healthy, active life style throughout Tippecanoe County. We look forward to working with you and your staff on this important project which was identified in the LWL Vision 2020 plan as the most important multi-jurisdictional community development project facing LWL. We are available to answer questions or further discuss our project at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Stanton Lambert
Stanton Lambert

Executive Director

Wabash River Enhancement Corporation

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